maximum w.e.f. April, 1999. However, in four metros and the Taj Trapezium, Sulphur content in diesel is even now limited to 0.25 percent maximum. Most of the PSU refineries supply diesel to other places also with Surphure content much below 1 percent.

(b) To supply 0.25 percent Sulphur diesel throughout the country Public Sector Refineries are implementing diesel hydrosulphurization projects at various locations at a cost of about Rs. 5600 crores.

Freedom fighters' pension

*245. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications from freedom fighters' pending with Government as on date, Statewise;

b) what steps are being taken to speed up the disposal of pension cases;

(c) whether it is a fact that many cases are pending for more than last ten years without proper correspondence; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to improve the early disposal of cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) The Government of India received 6,17,183 applications for grant of Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension out of which the Pension in respect of 1,64,135 persons was sanctioned after due verification and recommendations of the State Governments and the remaining applications were rejected. The Government have received several review petitions. As on 11.12.1998, out of 4,168 review petitions pending as on 30.11.1998, 1,731 have been disposed and 2,437 review petitions are under consideration. Efforts are being made to dispose of all these review petitions expeditiously.

There are, however, applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension in respect of Hyderabad Liberation Movement and regional movements of Kerala which have been referred to the concerned State Governmeents and their responses are awaited.

permanent defence structure on Indo-Pak border in Punjab

*246. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to sttae:

(a) whether Government have informulated a plan to build permanent defence structures for manning the sensitive Indo-Pak border in Punjab;

(b) whether in the absence of such permanent defence structure, how many times defence forces of Pakistan tried to infiltrate into our territory during the last one year; and

(c) the steps taken by Govenmenr to check any type of infiltration by Pakistanis into our territory?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) During peace time, Punjab portion of the Indo-Pak border is manned by the Border Security Force. This portion of the border has been almost completely fenced and border observation posts and watch towers have been constructed for border management in peace time. For war, the army has constructed permanent defence structures the details of which cannot be divulged for security reasons.

Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach to tackle infilation and military which include, inter-alia, strengthening border management, gearing up the intelligence machinery, well-coordinated and

sustained operation against terrorists and subversive elements by the State & Central agencies, intensification of patrolling and checking on border and other vulnerable areas, upgrading of technical equipments with the police and security forces, improved inter-action with the border population, etc.

There has not been any case of infiltration by Pak defence forces into our country in the Punjab sector of Indo-Pak border during the current year.

Explosion of oil pipeline by ULFA

*247. SHRI PARAG CHALLIHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has since been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Six killed, oil pipeline exploded by ULFA" which appeared in the Hindustan Times (New Delhi), dated the 28th November, 1998; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government strongly condemns all acts of violence and vandalism. The activities of ULFA and other such organisations are under close watch. ULFA continues to be an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. The State Government and the Oil industry have been advised to tighten security and take necessary precautions for the protection of oil installations.

कच्छ जिले के लिये गुजरात की "डेजर्ट ट्राइएंगल" योजना की स्वीकृति

*251. **श्री चोमन भाई हरीभाई शुक्ला :** क्या पर्यटन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या गुजरात राज्य सरकार ने जापान की मदद से कच्छ जिले के लिए "डेजर्ट ट्राइएंगल" योजना तैयार की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कच्छ जिले के विकास के लिए उक्त योजना को स्वीकृति हेतु सरकार के पास भेजा गया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसे स्वीकृति देने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) इस संबंध में कब तक कोई निर्णय लिए जाने की संभावना है ?

पर्यटन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ओमाक अपांग) : (क) और (ख) जी हां। गुजरात पर्यटन विकास निगम ने जापान के विदेशी आर्थिक सहयोग कोष से ऋण सहायता के लिए वर्ष 1996 में एक प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया था। यह प्रस्ताव वित्त मंत्रालय के आर्थिक कार्य विभाग को आवश्यक विचारार्थ भेजा गया था।

(ग) और (घ) आर्थिक कार्य विभाग ने सूचित किया कि यह प्रस्ताव वर्ष 1997-98 के लिए उस सूची में सम्मिलित नहीं किया जा सका जो विदेशी आर्थिक सहयोग कोष के ऋण पैकेज के लिए जापान सरकार को प्रस्तुत की गई।

Funds allocated to various States under IAY

*252. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of allocations made to various States for implementing Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years;